



Safety Note

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY



Safety Note #6

GENERAL EARTHQUAKE SAFETY



Deaths and injuries from earthquakes are typically caused by building collapse, flying glass, ignition of broken gas lines, downed electrical lines, and overturned appliances, furniture, and bookcases. It is estimated that there is a 70% chance your family will be at home during the next earthquake and outside emergency help may take up to 72 hours after a large earthquake.

Earthquake Preparedness

- Maintain a battery-powered radio, flashlight, fresh batteries, blankets, and first aid kit at a readily-accessible location in your home.
- Know the location of (and how to operate) gas and water shutoff valves and electric fuse or circuit breaker boxes.
- Refrain from putting heavy objects on high shelves and keep flammable or hazardous liquids (i.e., paints, pest sprays, cleaning products, or grill lighter fluids) on lower shelves.
- Anchor bookcases to walls and install straps around water heaters and furnaces and securely attach straps to walls.
- Maintain one gallon of drinking water per person per day for a minimum of seven days.
- Identify areas to take cover in your home such beneath a sturdy table or desk.
- Identify dangerous areas in your home such as next to windows, beneath ceiling light fixtures, or adjacent to large appliances.

During An Earthquake

- If you're outdoors, move to a clear area away from trees, buildings, and overhead electrical wires and poles.
- If you're indoors, get under a sturdy desk or table or stand against an interior wall or in a doorway. Stay away from windows and watch out for falling objects, plaster, or ceiling tiles.

After An Earthquake

- Check for injuries and provide first aid, if necessary.
- Check for fires and gas leaks. Check electric and water lines. Shut off services, as needed.
- Be prepared for aftershocks.
- Do not touch downed power lines.
- Turn on radio for emergency information. Do not use the telephone unless there is a severe injury.
- Stay calm and reassure others, especially children.